

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 01681 260737Z

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1607

UNCLAS NAIROBI 1681

FOR AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO BEXP KE US

SUBJ: PROPOSED BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI

1. AS YOU KNOW, I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THE HOLDING OF A BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI NEXT JULY. ACCORDING TO A COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL SENT TO ME IN JANUARY, A "FIRM DECISION" TO HOLD SUCH A CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI HAS BEEN TAKEN. HOWEVER, THE BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, BRUCE MACKENZIE (NOT KENYAN BRUCE MACKENZIE), WHO SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED NAIROBI IN JANUARY APPARENTLY DID NOT FIRM UP CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS WITH KENYAN MINISTRY OF FINANCE NOR DID HE BRIEF EMBASSY ON HIS PLANS BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM NAIROBI.

2. I WROTE TO ORVILLE FREEMAN, PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL, IN A LETTER DATED JANUARY 28, REPORTING ON MACKENZIE'S VISIT, BUT HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM HIM. KENYAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FINANCE MINISTER KIBAKI, CONTINUE TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC OVER POSSIBILITY OF ROUNDTABLE, WHICH I THINK WOULD ALSO BE IN USG INTEREST. I WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE YOUR TELEPHONING ORVILLE FREEMAN IN NEW YORK (212-759-7700) TO FIND OUT
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 01681 260737Z

CURRENT STATUS OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL THINKING RE

NAIROBI ROUNDTABLE AND, IF THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME
SLIPPAGE, TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PROCEED AS ORIGINALLY
PLANNED. YOU CAN ASSURE HIM THAT WE IN THE EMBASSY ARE
PREPARED TO PROVIDE ALL APPROPRIATE LIAISON AND OTHER
SUPPORTIVE ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS
FOR NAIROBI ROUNDTABLE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY ASAP AS I HAVE INVITED FINANCE
MINISTER KIBAKI TO LUNCH WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
JAMES AND ME ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28. I WOULD LIKE AT THAT
TIME TO BE ABLE TO TELL KIBAKI WHETHER IT IS "GO" OR
"NO GO".
MARSHALL

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